

House Bill 1417

By: Representatives Mangham of the 94th and Collins of the 95th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To amend Article 3 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to local boards of education, so as to provide for a nonbinding advisory referendum in a school system on whether school uniforms should be required for students in the school system; to provide for procedures and requirements relating thereto; to provide for a referendum; to provide for submission for preclearance; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Article 3 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to local boards of education, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

"20-2-72.

(a) In the event that two-thirds of the voters in an advisory referendum conducted pursuant to this Code section vote in favor of requiring students in the school system to wear uniforms, the local board of education shall within 60 days of such referendum take official action on such issue by either approving or disapproving the implementation of a mandatory school uniform policy.

(b) Upon resolution of the local board of education, the election superintendent of the applicable county or municipality shall call and conduct a nonbinding, advisory referendum election as provided in this Code section for the purpose of submitting to the electors of the school system the question of whether school uniforms should be required for students in the school system. The superintendent shall cause the date and purpose of the election to be published once a week for two weeks immediately preceding the date thereof in the official organ of the county or municipality. The ballot shall have written or printed thereon the words:

"NONBINDING ADVISORY REFERENDUM"

() YES Should the [insert county or municipality] Board of Education require that
() NO students in the school system wear school uniforms?"

All persons desiring to vote for approval of the question shall vote "Yes," and those persons
desiring to vote for rejection of the question shall vote "No." The expense of such election
shall be borne by the applicable county or municipality. It shall be the election
superintendent's duty to certify the result thereof to the Secretary of State."

SECTION 2.

The Attorney General of Georgia shall cause this Act to be submitted for preclearance under the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended; and such submission shall be made to the United States Department of Justice or filed with the appropriate court no later than 45 days after the date on which this Act is approved by the Governor or otherwise becomes law without such approval. If, as of June 30, 2011, implementation of this Act is not permissible under the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, then as of such date, this Act shall be void and shall stand repealed in its entirety.

SECTION 3.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.